



NEWS RELEASE

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For Additional Information

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BLM Schedules Prescribed Burn Near Bernardo

SOCORRO – The Bureau of Land Management will ignite about 3,000 acres during a prescribed burn scheduled to begin June 25 on Ladron Peak about 15 miles west of Bernardo, according to BLM-Socorro Field Office Manager Kate Padilla.

“We want to decrease the density within the Pinyon Juniper woodlands and rejuvenate the brush species on the mountain. This will help desert big horn sheep and mule deer avoid predators by improving sight visibility. It will also provide improved forage by encouraging resprouting in the decadent brush,” according to Don Kearney, BLM range technician.

The burn also is designed to reduce water-consuming brush around spring sites on the southern and eastern flanks of Ladron Peak. The hot, dry weather conditions are optimal to accomplishing resource objectives, and they are in line with the ecosystem’s natural fire regime, according to Kearney.

The fire will be an aerial ignition using a “helitorch.” BLM will be lead agency, assisted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Jicarilla Apache helitorch module.

Weather conditions permitting, the burn will be on the BLM-managed Ladron Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), established by the 1989 Socorro Resource Management Plan. The ACEC’s management goal is to protect the biological and scenic qualities of the area and provide public recreational opportunities.

Smoke from the burn may be visible from Albuquerque. For safety reasons, the public is asked not to visit the ACEC from June 25-29.

Additional information is available by contacting Kearney or Dave Heft, BLM-Socorro Field Office, 505/835-0412.